

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SWF-02 L-03

PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /112 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1104

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR TGEN US

SUBJECT: US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE: SPRING
WHEAT TEAM

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FRAZER ITP AND BESHOAR US-USSR
SECRETARIAT

REF: (A) STATE 157029; (B) FRASER PHONE CALL JULY 24

1. AGATTACHE REVIEWED REQUEST REF (A) WITH SECRETARIAT ON
JULY 23. KOVALEV INDICATED LETTER WILL BE AVAILABLE BY END
OF WEEK.
2. SOVIET SIDE INDICATED INITIAL PROGRAM WAS SCHEDULED FOR
1975 AND SHIFTED BY WASHINGTON TO 1974. SOVIET SIDE ALSO
INDICATED THE NON-SCIENTIFIC APPROACH OF PREVIOUS WHEAT TEAM
WOULD INDICATE A NEED FOR A REVIEW OF THIS TYPE OF EXCHANGE.
3. SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED AND AGATTACHE CONCURS THAT THE MOST
APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR SUCH A REVIEW IS THE WORKING GROUP SESSION,
PLANNED FOR LATE SEPTEMBER EARLY OCTOBER.
4. COMMENTS AS REQUESTED BY FRASER:
(A) IN REVIEWING A ONE TEAM POSTPONEMENT IT IS IMPORTANT TO
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LOOK AT THE IMMEDIATE PROGRESS OF ALL PAST EXCHANGES

SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT. RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET SIDE ON AGRICULTURAL MATTERS ARE JUDGED TO BE EXCELLENT AT THE MOMENT. PROGRESS IN THE EXCHANGE OF ECONOMIC INFORMATION IS SLOWER THAN DESIRABLE BUT WE DETECT A WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE MORE OPENLY. WE ALSO DETECT A MORE OPEN APPROACH TO PUBLISHING AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION THAN HERETOFORE.

(B) IN OUR MEETINGS WITH THE SOVIET SIDE WE HAVE EXPERIENCED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION SHARP QUESTIONING ABOUT THE PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WINTER AND SPRING WHEAT TEAMS. AND WHEN CONTINUING REQUESTS ARE MADE TO OBSERVE IN AREAS RESTRICTED TO DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL, FURTHER SERIOUS QUESTIONING OF USDA ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES AND INTENTIONS ARE INCORPORATED IN SOVIET THINKING.

(C) WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE NEED FOR FIELD OBSERVATIONS AT SPECIFIC TIMES FOR FURTHERING OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, BUT WE ARE EQUALLY, IF NOT MORE, MINDFUL OF THE NEED TO EXPAND OUR CONTACTS AND DEVELOP GOOD RAPPORT DURING THIS MOST OPPORTUNE TIME OF SOVIET-US RELATIONS.

(D) WE BELIEVE THAT TEAM FIELD OBSERVATIONS, WHICH ALSO ARE ONE OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS OFFICE, AND RAPPORT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BETTER UNDER A BALANCED APPROACH RATHER THAN AN UNBALANCED ONE. THE DISCUSSION OF FUTURE FIELD TEAM TRAVEL MOREOVER IS CRITICAL TO THE TOTAL OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT AS WELL AS TO THE SOVIET POINT OF VIEW TOWARD FUTURE FIELD TRIPS BY THE ATTACHE STAFF. WE WOULD ALSO POINT OUT THAT WE ARE REALLY ONLY IN THE BEGINNING STAGES OF DEVELOPING LONG LASTING PROGRAMS -- ATTITUDINAL CHANGE CAN NOT BE MADE OVER-NIGHT.

(E) MY VOTE IS TO CONTINUE OUR FORWARD MOMENTUM IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND NOT TO PULL BACK PREMATURELY AS A RESULT OF ONE TEAM POSTPONEMENT UNTIL FULL DISCUSSIONS CAN BE MADE ON ALL POINTS AND COUNTERPOINTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED BECAUSE OF TOO LITTLE TIME AND TOO MUCH PRESSURE. STOESSEL

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